

Roleker Alfred. (231)

New York. Feb 14. 1874.

Feb. 16/74

Acknowledging recpt of
decision of Art Committee
with regard to collection
of Pictures.

✓

LOUIS WINDMÜLLER & ROELKER,
Commission Merchants
NEW YORK.

February 14th 1874.

Mrs. Geo. L. Esq
Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir

I am glad of your
day communicating
the decision of your
Art Committee is
to loan. —

You will excuse
my mentioning that
my friends anticipated
this decision, since
your former letter gave
the name of the
gentleman to whom
the matter had been
referred in this city. —

Yours truly
Alfred Knapp

(232)
Augie Mc
New York Feb. 16/74,
Feb. 17/74,

Wishes to sell Busts
Proserpine & Genereia by
Powers.

Encloses copy of a letter
from Genl Preston, giving
the merits of them.

New York. February 16th/74
19. E. 31st St

Mr. W. W. Freeman

Dear Sir

As I am personally
unknown to you even by name, I must
beg to refer you to Senator Goldthwaite
of Alabama, or to Col. P. Phillips of Wash-
ington as to who I am as also my responsi-
bility for what I propose to offer. I have
been entrusted by my friend Genl John
S. Preston to dispose of two busts by
Hiram Powers the sculptor, & knowing
your taste in matters of art, presumed
I might take the liberty of addressing
you; & making an offer of them before
they were offered to the public. These
Busts were done expressly as a gift

to Mrs Preston by the artist, & highly
Valued as long as they could adorn a
Home, that being broken up & having
no way of keeping them properly, the
family are desirous of disposing of
them. The enclosed copy of a letter
from Genl. Preston will give you the merits
of these ~~models~~ Valuable souvenirs of
the genius of the Sculptor, & say more
for them than I could. I would call
your attention to the beauty of the Pr-
destals which accompany them, These
were modeled by Powers himself & execu-
ted by one of his best workmen, under
his special supervision, I understand.
They are exquisitely executed, & cost
Two hundred dollars a piece. The Busts
are "Proserpine" & "Genevra". I have

Photographs of them should you desire
to see them. The Proserpine is perfect,
but the Genevra was injured by some of
Genl. Sherman's bayonets when his army
invaded Columbia, this of course impairs
the value of it as a work of art, close inspec-
tion will show the picks of the bayonet
even in these imperfect Photographs.
The 'Proserpine' is valued at 1200 dols
& the injured Genevra at 400 - should
you desire to become the purchaser will
you be kind enough to write me to the
following address Mrs C. Augé 19. E. 31st St
& may I ask you will consider this con-
fidential until something is determined,
as I think Genl P. would prefer it not
being made public for the present.

Most respectfully Yours
M. Augé

Ex tract from a letter from Genl. John S.
Preston of South Carolina -

In the Year 1836 or
1837, Genl. James Poyers in Washington
at the instigation of my brother William Preston
and other Southern members of Congress. He
was at work in the Capitol, and invited me
to his Studio. I went often, and became
deeply interested by the enthusiasm & genius
he manifested for his art and his simple but
charming personal qualities. One day I said to him,
"Poyers go to Italy, to refine your genius amid the
monuments of Ancient Art." I saw filled his eyes as
he replied: "It is my dream - would to God I could."
He was warmly attached to my brother, who had helped
him get some order at Washington - I authorized
my brother to tell him; if he would go to Italy
I would furnish the means - It was arranged -
I advanced him every dollar he took with him -
and something for his necessary preparations -
I returned these advances for a number of years.
I do not recollect how many - His gratitude
was boundless and our friendship most cordial.
In 1846 I went to Florence, and took him
in my carriage to Rome, the first time he had been
there - He offered me money & fame: He made
the "G" for me & would not accept one dollar in
compensation - He sent Mrs. Preston his first effort
at a classical head after he went to Italy and twenty

years after sent her his original first "Rosetta".
as his most elaborately finished work, and
the culmination of the genius we had had the
happiness of aiding in its first efforts. These
precious gifts were accompanied by letters of the
most ardent and gracefully expressed gratitude -
In our necessity after the war, we sold the "Eve"
to A. T. Stewart for \$5,000.⁰⁰ he begged for a
reduction of \$500.⁰⁰ and we gave it him for \$4,500.⁰⁰ -
It is now worth \$20,000.⁰⁰ - It is Powers' grandest work -
Thorwaldson praised it and he left the impress of
his hand on the model -

He now offers the busts for sale because he need money and
have no fitting place for their preservation -
The "Guerra" was sacred with Powers as his first effort in
Italy and therefore he gave it to my wife - The Rosetta
he worked on for her for years - to exhibit to her the result
and his appreciation of hers and her husband's kindness
to the poor Artist and as a testimony of long un-
derstanding affectionate friendship -

We part with them under the deep shadow
of the feeling that comes of these circumstances.

Brown Wm

233

Nottingham England.

Nov. 4. 1873.

Wishes to sell some
pictures.



CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Wm Cronin,
8 Nottingham.
England
Nov: 4. /73.

Not being my old friend

in conclusion I beg to add,
that, I am prepared to give,
any guarantee required as to
its genuineness and a satis-
factory account of where and
how it comes into Mr. Boyd's
possession.

I am,
Sir
Obediently Yours,
Wm Cronin
Collector

The Director
of the Museum
Washington U.S.



England.

233
Nov: 17. 1873

Sir.

Having noticed in one of
our local Papers that high
class pictures are now being
purchased for your Museum.
May I invite your attention to
a really fine gallery specimen now
in my possession, which I
wish to dispose of.

It is a magnificent land-
scape by the Elder Pater, dated
and signed.

Subject, The Holy Family
appearing by the way, -

They are in the foreground

- the glimpse of a City in the
distance - with Ruins and
majestic trees to the left - -
all elaborated in Patin's most-
finished manner; and the
entire picture in the most
perfect preservation - -

It was formerly the property
of Mr. Boyse of Bannow, Co.
Wexford, Ireland, and the
favorite, out of all in the gallery,
of his closest friend Thomas
Moore, my Country's pride as
a Poet.

Mr Boyse left it by will,

to his land agent Mr Dillon,
upon whose decease recently,
it became my property - -

If such a work then
be felt an acquisition, by
the Trustees of your Museum,
I shall be glad to hear from
you on the subject.

The picture is at present -
in the hands of Mr Holder
Picture Dealer and Restorer
33 Brewer, Street, Golden Square,
London, who will readily
show it to any judge you may
authorise to inspect it, and

234

Collected N. W.

Newark N. J. Dec 23/73.

Recd Dec 24/73

Encloses a letter from
Wm. C. Bryant upon the
subject of Mrs Spencers
picture of "Truth unveiling
Falsehood."

Received ✓

Newark, N. J. Dec. 23/73

Mr. W. W. Corcoran, Washington, D.C.

Respected Sir

I was in N. York

yesterday and had the pleasure
of seeing Wm. C. Bryant Esq. (Poet.)

He remembered distinctly the
pleasure it gave him when
viewing the allegorical painting
of "Truth unveiling Falsehood".
enclosed you will find a
note from him on the subject.

My dear Mr. Concoran

How soon Mr. H. and myself
feel at the death of our friend
Mr. Macalester, it came upon
me like a thunderbolt, I cannot yet
realize his departure, we had time
him to love him & lose him. It
must be a warning voice to us to cherish
our friends, and Mr. Vernon's friends while
they are with us, how long they can
remain we know not.

Please bear this no not forget the provisions that
of the Whittier went connecting yourself and others
with Mr. Vernon - at our early period of its distinction
existence - Mr. Macalester joins me in

affectionate regards and remembrance

Yours Truly

Ch. W. Macalester

Office of the Evening Post,
New York Dec. 22d 1873

I remember the allegorical picture
of Truth Unveiling Falsehood painted
by Mrs. Lily M. Spencer, when that
lady was in this city. It struck me
very agreeably at the time both as respects
the design and the execution, and I
should be very glad to see that it had
been obtained by some public gallery.
If the Trustees of the Washington Art
Gallery have the subject brought before
them I hope they will not decide against
possessing it until some one of their number
had seen it.

W. C. Bryant.

Tompkins, Julius L. (235)
Paris Nov 17/73

Offers services to select
works of art for the
Foreign
Gallery.

answered Feb. 23/74

11 Boulevard des Capucines, Paris. Nov 17/73
Mr. Corcoran
Dear Sir,
I have heard of
your intention to purchase pictures
in Europe for your Washington art
gallery and I write to you with
the hope that you may commission
me to aid you in the selection,
for which I have peculiar advantages
and facilities. I am sure you
will be pleased to hear that my
daughter is known, as one of the
most promising young artists
in Paris, two pictures of hers, hav-
ing been accepted for the last
exposition, when the number was
limited to one thousand and

five thousand works of art were refused - Her master, Léon Bonnat is one of the most eminent figure painters in the world, and offered to instruct her on account of her superior talent -

We live in the artist's quarter and in the same house with twenty artists - several of them distinguished in their profession - among them are Diaz, Jacques, and Leyen-Perrin - We are acquainted with a number of well-known artists and I think I could be useful to you in forming your collection.

My object in wishing employment is to give to my daughter every advantage in

the study of painting, which she intends to prosecute seriously and assiduously - This, I cannot do, without some addition to my income, which has been much reduced by the war.

I regretted not being able to see you when we were in Washington last summer - We were there but two days and while you were out of town, but I was pleased to learn that you were improved in health - My daughter writes with me in kind regards.

Very Respectfully Yours
Julia Latimer Tompkins

Bruff. J. G. (236)
Jan'y 2. 1874
Jan'y 2. /74,

Offers painting of "Braddock
Defeat." by Lutz for sale,

✓

To The Trustees of the Corcoran Art Gallery: -
Gentlemen,

Permit me to call your attention to a large painting of great merit, and of a memorable event in the Early life of Washington. It is Braddock's Defeat, by Lietzke. The landscape from nature, and the details of the circumstances as perfect as the records of that extraordinary affair, and of the heroism of the noble young soldier. I have examined it with much admiration, as such an admirable representation of the event. - one that stamped Washington as a great hero, with every quality of an eminent Commander, at the early age of 22. Referring to this, in an Address I am preparing to deliver on the 22d. Feb: I allude to it as follows: - "The Command was suddenly assaulted by a murderous fire, from ambuscading French and Indians, from the front and right, killing and wounding more than half of the command, and producing the wildest confusion! In a brief time, Braddock had 5 horses killed under him, and fell, mortally wounded, while attempting to mount the 5th. Washington had 2 horses killed under him, and his clothes riddled with rifle-balls."

Mr Mullett, the Architect, has it in one of his rooms at the Treasury: and authorized me, for the owner, (he has no interest in it whatever) - to call your attention to it, that you may become such a valuable acquisition.

I am, Most Respectfully,
Yours Truly,
J. Goldborough Bruff

Jan. 2^d. 1874.

Bruff, J. G.

236 1/2

29 Jan'y 174,

Design for Medal &c.

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Medal commemorating the found^d and opening of

Designed by J.G.Bruff

The Corcoran

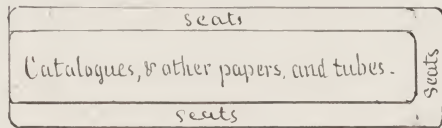
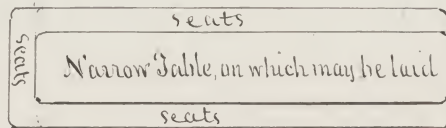
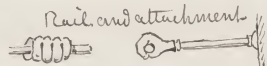
Gallery of Arts.

SECTION.



236 1/2

Railing
PLAN
Picture - Gallery



(An off-hand drawing, without scale of proportions.)

Railing

Entrance

Railing

Gruff.

Jan^y
Washington 29th. 1874.

To W. W. Corcoran, Esq^r:

Dear Sir,

Please find, enclosed, a Design for a Medal, to commemorate the Founding and Opening of the Art Gallery. It has ever been a very proper custom, in Europe, and some instances of it in our own country, of commemorating important Art Establishments by suitable Medals, which become valued and interesting Souvenirs, - prized by lovers of Art, as well and Numismatics. This, - of your munificence and admiration of Art, - so worthy of you, as of adorning the National Capital, and destined to become a very important Institution, and to immortalise your name in the records of Art Fame, ought, assuredly, to be so commemorated. - For which purpose, I have, in a hurried manner, prepared a sketch of a Design: in which, the representation of the Building and the Portrait are not, as will be seen, any thing like likenesses, but merely indicators of their positions on the medals, when the medalist obtains the correct approved models for copying. Excuse the roughness of the production, - due, not only to hurried work, but to worn-out eyes, glasses, and instruments.

P.S. Such medal, done in white metal and bronze, would be eagerly sought after, - command a ready sale, and soon, more than pay the expenses of their production. B

I am Sir, most Respectfully,

Yours, very truly -

J. Goldsborough Buff

(237)

Cox, Anne I.

Feb. 5. 1874

Recd Feb 6/74,

Offers an Oil Painting
for sale.

✓

Rec'd Dec. 6th

Ans'd Feb. 23rd

My dear Mr. Hyde
I have just received
your letter of the 10th inst.

Q. B. S. 1/4 ct

Washington D. C.

My dear Mr. Hyde

I have just received

your letter of the 10th inst.

I shall be glad to dispose of

to the Porcelain Art Society.

I shall be glad to have the pleasure to send

to you for inspection? If you

have the goods to be sent

when I receive it I will be

glad to

Yours very truly

John W. Hyde

Dec 10th 1872

Carlisle J. M. (238)

Recd. Feb. 2, 1874,

Enclosing a letter from
G. A. Matile, with one
from H. Fredeman, offering
a picture for sale.

✓

A. Hyde Esq.

Friend

Very truly yours

My dear Sir

Enclosed I send you a communication from Mr Matile the Secretary of the American and Spanish Commission conveying a letter from a friend which will explain itself. Will you please file these and lay them before the Board at its first meeting.

Hon: J. M. Carlisle,
President.

Dear Sir:

I am very much obliged to you indeed, for the free admission to the Corcoran Gallery tendered me by your letter of 17th inst. My first intention was to express to you my thanks at the first meeting of the Spanish and American Commission. But I have an occasion to do it now.

Enclosed please find a letter of an old friend of mine. Please read it, and, if you think it proper, submit it to the Board.

I have seen the picture, and think it would be a first rate jewel in any gallery, both
in

the new and old world. It is not large, nor placed in a conspicuous frame, two things which in the eyes of many are defects. But it asks for judges as it is, and will find them here).

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
your obed^t Serv^t.

G. A. Mabile

Washington, Jan'y 28. 1874.

My dear Friends,

I read in a newspaper that the Washington Art-Gallery has been opened to the public. You recollect of having seen in my house that beautiful Pict^{ure} ^{and what piece} which my artist^s ^{and what piece} much admired. Do you think this picture could be allowed to be put on exhibition in the said Gallery and do you suppose that such an exhibition might result in the sale of the picture? The picture was never before exhibited anywhere neither in this country nor in Europe. You remember that the picture belongs to a Countess of — — who wishes to part with the picture to obtain the means for finishing the education of her children. The picture was formerly in the Gallery of that celebrated Suggs in Augsburg and from there has ^{with the time} come by inheritance in the possession of ^{above} the mentioned Countess who is a cousin of mine. By aristocratic prejudices or according to noble ethics not wishing that anybody should find out that she was obliged to sell the picture to obtain money she requested me to try to sell the picture in this country which however I find difficult

on

on account of the high prize which Kaulbach
in München, whose opinion about the matter
was solicited, I'd set down for it; the Americans
not yet appreciating nor understanding such
pictures; I have often been therefore advised
to send the picture to England where they know
more of art and have also the money ~~for~~ to expend
for it. I would now like to have the picture
on different exhibitions and will even wait for
the centennial exhibition, before I would send
the picture back to Europe.

If the picture could be exhibited at Washington,
I had of course to get a security for getting
it back again and that it would not be stolen
or injured.

According to your answer I will bring the
picture or not.

My family is doing well enough to be con-
tended with them; they send their best regards
to you and the Schurz family and I remain
in all friendship

respectfully Yours
Herrich Friedemann

Recd. Feb. 2^d

Summed Feb. 28.

Heclmer

(239) Notified. Dec. 23/54

Ingalls. W.

Ansund Feb 28/74

Offers pictures - to be
placed in Gallery.

declined ✓

~~Reelies~~

Corina Williams

re-education and health care are

Coastal Iron bolt & solid brass

12. *Myadestes occidentalis*

22-1-10

Kennedy, P. M. (2410)
Cincinnati Feb. 12/74
Rec'd Feb. 16/74

With regard to pictures
he wishes to sell.

Recd. Feb. 16/74

answered Feb. 23 ..

✓

W. Cincinnati
College Hill, Ohio
12th February 1874

Wm Macleod Esq. Washington

Dear Sir

I am favoured with your letter of the 28th Ult^o, regarding my proposal of the Pictures referred to in my letter. If you can oblige me with a line as to the time your Art Committee will meet, I will esteem it greatly. The "Breikelen Kamp" is now with Messrs. Robert Clark & Co. 4th St Cincinnati where any of the Committee could see it. & if they are Connoisseurs I feel satisfied that their decision will pronounce this Picture as unequalled in quality of Art in this Country. The "Rubens" can also be seen at Messrs Clarke & Co. The Portrait of Henrietta Maria by A Vandyck I can have with it, if you will inform me as to the time. I live in the Country 7 Miles from Cincinnati and could bring the Vandyck when coming to the City

I am Dear Sir
Yours respectfully

P. M. Kennedy